

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JMEDEIROS
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 186209 TOSEC 080195

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:MORNING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 8

NO. 20
(NOTE: CABLE NO. 19 SHOULD HAVE BEEN DATED AUGUST 7)

WIRE SERVICES

AP -- BARRY SCHWEID FROM TAIF

LEAD: "US OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TODAY THEY ARE IN INDIRECT
CONTACT WITH THE PLO ON POSSIBLE WAYS OF REMOVING ROAD-
BLOCKS TO A MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- OFFICIALS SAID PLO HAS ADVISED US THROUGH INTERME-
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DIARIES IT WAS CONSIDERING MODIFICATIONS IN UNSC RES 242.
BUT THEY SAID THERE WAS NOTHING FIRM YET INDICATING PLO
WOULD RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, AND US IS SEEKING CLARIFICATION.

-- NO DETAILS GIVEN ON CONTACTS, BUT ARAFAT HAS SHADOWED
VANCE ON ALMOST EVERY STOP OF TRIP.

-- PASSAGE OF REWORDED RES WOULD FIRMLY COMMIT US AND UN TO PALESTINIAN HOMELAND.

-- DEVELOPMENTS INDICATED US MOVING CLOSER TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLO, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT CURRENT HARD-LINE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD DEAL WITH PLO EVEN IF IT RECOGNIZES ISRAEL.

-- OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE PRIVATELY CHANCES FOR MIDEAST CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER HAVE ALL BUT EVAPORATED.

UPI -- JIM ANDERSON FROM TAIF (LATE-FILED NEWS STORY)

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE MET WITH KING KHALED OF SAUDI ARABIA TODAY AND PRESIDENT CARTER SAID VANCE WOULD EXTEND HIS MIDEAST PEACE SHUTTLE IN THE LIGHT OF REPORTS THAT THE PALESTINIANS MIGHT BE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL."

OTHER POINTS:

-- OFFICIALS IN PARTY SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED INDIRECT WORD THE PLO MIGHT ACCEPT A MODIFIED FORM OF UNSC RES 242. CARTER SAID SAME THING IN PLAINS, AND ADDED THAT VANCE WOULD REMAIN IN MIDEAST FOR SECOND ROUND OF CONVERSATIONS.

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-- CARTER SAID THRUST OF PLO CONTACTS WAS THAT PLO MAY ADOPT RES 242. HE SAID US WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH PLO UNTIL IT RECOGNIZES RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST.

UPI -- JIM ANDERSON FROM TAIF (ANALYSIS COLUMN)

LEAD: "HIS CRITICS USED TO FAULT HENRY KISSINGER FOR HIS FLAMBOYANT, ONE-MAN BRAND OF DIPLOMACY. ONE OF THOSE CRITICS, JIMMY CARTER, CALLED IT "LONE RANGER DIPLOMACY." NOW IT IS PRESIDENT CARTER, AND HIS ADMINISTRATIONS TOP FOREIGN POLICY TROUBLE-SHOOTER, SECSTATE VANCE, WHO APPEAR TO BE LEARNING THAT KISSINGER'S COLORFUL PERSONAL STYLE AND SHUTTLE FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE WORLD'S CAPITALS WERE NOT ALL FOR SHOW."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE HAS DISCOVERED THAT SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY HELPS OVERCOME SEMANTIC AND PROCEDURAL LOGJAMS.

-- HE ARRIVED IN MIDEAST WITH PROPOSALS WHICH WERE

REJECTED BY SADAT, WHO PROPOSED WORKING GROUP. THAT IDEA

WAS REJECTED BY ASSAD. WITHIN HOURS, ARAB DIPLOMATS IN BEIRUT SAID REJECTION WAS CONDITIONAL, NOT ABSOLUTE. US OFFICIALS TOLD NEWSMEN THEY WERE EXAGGERATING IMPORTANCE OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL.

-- "SOMETHING THEN EMERGED WHICH MIGHT BE CALLED 'SON OF WORKING GROUP.' IT WILL BE...A SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN VANCE AND OTHER MIDEAST FONMINS.

-- THUS VANCE IS RETRACING PATH TAKEN BY KISSINGER WHICH DREW SO MUCH CRITICISM.

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-- VANCE BECOMING WEARY; "THE VOICE OF THE ONE-TIME LAWYER IS GROWING A LITTLE HOARSE AS HE PLEADS WHAT COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT CASE OF HIS LIFE."

REUTERS -- ROY GUTMAN FROM TAIF

LEAD: "OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING SECSTATE VANCE ON HIS MIDEAST MISSION SAID TODAY THE US HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THE PLO WANTS A REVISION OF THE 1967 UN RES OUTLINING THE PRINCIPLES FOR AN ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE SETTLEMENT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- UNTIL NOW, PLO HAS REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH UNSC RES 242, WHICH TREATS PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS REFUGEE PROBLEM. US REFUSES TO DEAL WITH PLO UNTIL IT ACCEPTS RES 242.

-- OFFICIALS SAID REPORTS HAD COME FROM LEADERS OF SOME COUNTRIES VISITED BY VANCE. THOSE INTERMEDIARIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CLARIFY PALESTINIAN STAND.

-- PALESTINIAN ACCEPTANCE OF EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL COULD HELP BREAK LOGJAM BLOCKING GENEVA CONFERENCE.

-- US OFFICIALS SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT CONSIDERING ANY MODIFICATION IN RES 242. MAIN POINT FROM US POINT OF VIEW WAS PLO ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL. THEY SAID US HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ISRAEL ABOUT DEVELOPMENT.

(SECOND REUTERS STORY NOTES US APOLOGY FOR NOTATION "CHRISTIAN" ON REPORTERS' HOTEL REGISTRATION CARDS. SAYS SOME JEWISH REPORTERS CROSSED NOTATION OUT AND FILLED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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OWN RELIGION.)

MORNING RADIO REPORTS

CBS -- BERNARD KALB

THROUGH ARAB INTERMEDIARIES THE US SEEMS TO BE IN INDIRECT TOUCH WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. US OFFICIALS, REACTING TO NEWS REPORTS, DISCLOSED THAT THE US HAS BEEN SEEKING PLO CLARIFICATION OF...PLO REPORTS RELAYED TO SEC VANCE AS HE MAKES THE ROUNDS OF ARAB COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO THESE OFFICIALS, THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT THE PLO MIGHT CONSIDER ACCEPTING THE KEY UN RESOLUTION DEALING WITH PEACE IN THE MIDEAST IF IT WERE REWORDED TO INCLUDE THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. THE REPORTS WERE CHARACTERIZED AS LACKING PRECISION, HENCE THE REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION.

BUT US OFFICIALS DENY THAT THIS REPRESENTED INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO, WHICH IS COMMITTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL. AT FIRST, US OFFICIALS SAID YES WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE US HAD ASKED FOR THESE CLARIFICATIONS THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARIES. THIS WOULD SUGGEST CONTACT WITH THE PLO THROUGH A THIRD PARTY. BUT LATER THESE OFFICIALS PULLED BACK, SAYING THE U.S. HAD SIMPLY REQUESTED CLARIFICATION.

ABC -- STEVE BELL AND BARRIE DUNSMORE

BELL: UN RES 242 HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED A POSSIBLE BASIS FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDEAST. ALMOST EVERYONE ENDORSES IT, BUT WITH VARYING INTERPRETATIONS. NOW COMES A REPORT THAT THE PLO MAY BE WILLING TO USE THAT RESOLUTION AS A WAY TO TACITLY RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL. MORE ON THE STORY FROM ABC'S BARRIE DUNSMORE TRAVELLING WITH SECSTATE VANCE IN SAUDI ARABIA. UNCLASSIFIED

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DUNSMORE: US SOURCES HERE IN SAUDI ARABIA TODAY CONFIRMED THAT SEC VANCE HAS RECEIVED INDIRECT MESSAGES FROM THE PLO THAT IT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT RES 242 WITH MODIFICATIONS. SUCH ACCEPTANCE COULD BE CONSIDERED RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST.

BUT, US OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE MESSAGES HAVE BEEN VARIED AND NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT THE MODIFICATIONS THE PLO WOULD WANT WOULD BE CHANGES IN THE CLAUSE THAT REFERS TO THE PALESTINIANS AS REFUGEES AMENDED TO RECOGNIZE THEIR RIGHTS AS A PEOPLE.

NEWSPAPERS

NY TIMES -- BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM TAIF (PAGE ONE BYLINED "NEWS ANALYSIS" COLUMN)

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE'S MIDEAST MISSION HAS NOT ONLY UNDERSCORED WELL-KNOWN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAEL BUT HAS ALSO BROUGHT TO LIGHT DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND ISRAEL THAT SOME AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ASSERT COULD PROVOKE A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PM BEGIN."

OTHER POINTS:

-- DURING BEGIN VISIT, SUCH CLASHES AVOIDED "BY MUTUAL CONSENT," BUT INGREDIENTS ARE PRESENT FOR NEW ROUND OF DISPUTES.

-- DIFFERENCES ALSO EXIST BETWEEN US AND ARABS AND WITHIN ARAB CAMP, BUT MEMBERS OF VANCE PARTY GIVE IMPRESSION UNCLASSIFIED

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THEY BELIEVE ISRAELIS "ARE THE ONES WHO NEED TO SHOW MORE FLEXIBILITY."

-- BEGIN DISLIKED CARTER'S THREE-PRONGED PROPOSAL FOR MIDEAST SETTLEMENT, SO HE PRESENTED PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO GET GENEVA STARTED. VANCE TRIP HAS MADE CLEAR THAT ARABS DO NOT WANT TO GO TO GENEVA UNLESS GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FINAL SETTLEMENT ESTABLISHED BEFOREHAND.

-- ARAB VIEWPOINT IS NOT SURPRISING; WHAT IS SURPRISING IS THAT VANCE AGREED WITH IT YESTERDAY. (QUOTES VANCE STATEMENT THAT THE MORE THAT CAN BE RESOLVED THE BETTER OFF WE ARE)

--AT A MINIMUM, US SEEMS TO WANT FROM ISRAEL AN AGREEMENT TO RELINQUISH MOST OF THE TERRITORY CONQUERED IN 1967. US ALSO WANTS TO BE FREE TO DEAL WITH PLO IF IT ACCEPTS ISRAELI RIGHT TO EXIST.

-- NEXT STEP IN PROCESS IS NEW YORK MEETINGS. KEY SESSION THERE WILL BE WITH DAYAN; ISRAELIS HAVE SAID THEY

WISH ONLY TO DISCUSS PROCEDURE, WHILE US AND ARABS WANT TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE AS WELL. IF ISRAELIS STICK TO BEGIN PLAN AND REFUSE TO MAKE COMMITMENTS BEFORE GENEVA, US WILL MAKE PUBLIC ITS "VANCE PLAN" OR "CARTER PLAN" WITH ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF MIDEAST SETTLEMENT.

-- US OFFICIALS THINK BEGIN CANNOT AFFORD MAJOR DISPUTE WITH US GIVEN HIS SLIM MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. CARTER HIMSELF SAID LAST WEEK IF ONE LEADER WAS BEING INTRANSIGENT HE WOULD APPEAL TO PEOPLE OF THAT NATION. SUCH A MOVE COULD EASILY BACKFIRE AND INCREASE BEGIN'S SUPPORT, BUT IT IS INDICATIVE OF ADMINISTRATION'S THINKING.

-- IF CARTER ATTEMPTS TO PRESSURE ISRAELIS, HE WILL HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO DEFEND HIMSELF FROM CRITICISM BY AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS AND REPUBLICANS.

(PAGE ONE STRAIGHT NEWS STORY FROM TAIF, NO BYLINE)

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN SAUDI SUMMER CAPITAL TODAY AFTER RECEIVING AN ENCOURAGING SENDOFF IN AMMAN FROM KING HUSSEIN. KING, WHO HAS LONG BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT CHANCES FOR A MIDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT, SAID AT PRESS CONFERENCE AT PALACE THAT HE WAS NOW "CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC," BECAUSE "WE THINK OUR FRIENDS MEAN BUSINESS."

-- VANCE SAID EARLIER THAT MORE PROBLEMS REMAINED THAN THERE HAD BEEN PROGRESS TOWARDS SETTTLING THEM.

-- BEGIN APPEALED TO JORDAN AND SYRIA TO RECONSIDER REJECTION OF WORKING GROUP.

-- HUSSEIN SEEMED PLEASED AT VANCE AGREEMENT WITH NEED FOR ACCEPTED SET OF PRINCIPLES BEFORE GENEVA STARTS.

WASH POST -- DON OBERDORFER FROM TAIF (P-1 LEAD STORY)

LEAD: "THE US AND THE MAJOR ARAB COUNTRIES ARE NOT FAR APART ON THE OUTLINE OF PRINCIPLES TO FORM THE BASIS OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE AND A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDEAST, ACCORDING TO INFORMED ARAB SOURCES."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SECSTATE VANCE WILL CARRY BOTH US AND ARAB VIEWS TO ISRAEL.

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-- LIKELIHOOD OF US-ISRAEL CLASH INCREASED BY REPORTS QUOTING SHMUEL KATZ AS REFUSING TO DISCUSS CONTENTS OF PEACE TALKS IN ADVANCE AND STATING THAT BEGIN WOULD NOT DISCUSS SUBSTANCE WITH VANCE.

-- INDICATIONS ARE THAT US PROPOSALS INCLUDE POINTS MADE BY CARTER: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, CREATION OF PALESTINIAN

ENTITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL. SECURITY GUARANTEES ALSO BEING DISCUSSED.

-- ARAB CONSENSUS THAT PRINCIPLES FOR SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED IN ADVANCE REFLECTS GROWING BELIEF THAT PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT HAVE WORSENEDED SINCE BEGIN'S ELECTION, AND THAT COLLAPSED GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE WORSE THAN NO CONFERENCE AT ALL.

-- NBC REPORTED THE PLO WOULD ACCEPT UNSC RES 242 IF IT WERE CHANGED TO MENTION RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS.

-- VANCE SAID "TOO SHALLOW BASE" FOR GENEVA WOULD RISK IMMEDIATE STALEMATE. SADAT SEEMS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC THAN PREVIOUSLY FOR CONFERENCE. ASSAD AND HUSSEIN SAID TO AGREE THERE IS NOT MUCH POINT IN GOING TO GENEVA UNLESS THERE ARE SOLID PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS.

BOSTON GLOBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE -- JOHN MACLEAN FROM TAIF

LEAD: "THE US AND THE PLO HAVE BEGUN COORDINATED EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE WORDING OF KEY UN RESOLUTION TO MAKE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL POSSIBLE FOR THE PLO, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES."

OTHER POINTS:

-- THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS, PLO HAS LET US KNOW THEY UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD ACCEPT UNSC RES 242 IF IT CONTAINED REFERENCE TO RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

-- SOURCES ON VANCE PARTY SAID US CONSIDERS PLO OVERTURE A POSITIVE STEP.

-- FRENCH HAVE ALREADY OPENED "FORMATIVE" TALKS WITH EC

IN AN EFFORT TO INTRODUCE REWORDED RESOLUTION.

-- ACCEPTANCE OF RES 242 WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. WHETHER PLO WOULD THEN BE SEATED AT GENEVA IS QUESTIONABLE, SINCE ISRAEL HAS VETO OVER WHO IS SEATED. BUT CARTER HAS SAID IF PLO RECOGNIZES ISRAEL, US WOULD BEGIN PLANNING FOR TALKS WITH PLO LEADERSHIP.

-- HUSSEIN TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY HE WAS IMPRESSED BY "SERIOUS" PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY VANCE. HE SKIRTED ISSUE OF WHETHER US HAD BROUGHT NEW PROPOSALS ON PLO ISSUE, BUT SAID HE CONSIDERED AMERICAN POSITION DIFFERENT AND MORE ENCOURAGING THAN IN PAST.

-- AMERICAN SOURCES SAID REWORDED RESOLUTION IS ONLY ONE AVENUE BEING EXPLORED WITH ARABS.

BALT SUN -- HANK TREWHITT FROM TAIF

LEAD: "KING HUSSEIN WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT US DIPLOMACY. "AT LAST," HE SAID YESTERDAY, "WE ARE NOT GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES AS WE DID FOR YEARS." IT WAS NOT A REMARK DESIGNED TO PLEASE HENRY KISSINGER....BUT IT WAS A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF STATED ARAB ATTITUDES DURING MR. VANCE'S CURRENT PEACEMAKING TOUR OF THE MIDEAST."

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OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE'S EXPLORATIONS HAVE IMPLIED TO ARABS STRONG US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO COMPROMISE. HE HAS ENDORSED THEIR ARGUMENT THAT MANY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES MUST BE SOLVED BEFORE DIRECT NEGOTIATION IN GENEVA.

-- TO THAT END HE WILL CONDUCT INTENSIVE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AT UNGA.

-- MEETINGS IN ISRAEL LIKELY TO BE TENSE CONFRONTATION; CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS COME DOWN HARD FOR ISRAELI COMPROMISE.

-- FIRST VANCE OBJECTIVE IS TO SET UP NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK FOR GENEVA. HE ANNOUNCED LIMITED PROGRESS ON NATURE OF ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS AFTER PEACE AND ON ROLE OF PALESTINIANS AT GENEVA.

-- ARAB POSITIONS ON PLO SEEM TO BE EVOLVING SLOWLY, BUT THERE IS NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL. VANCE ALSO EXPLORING A VARIETY OF ALTERNATIVES

TO PLO PARTICIPATION.

-- WHILE ARABS AGREE ON NEED FOR PALESTINIAN ENTITY, THEY DIFFER ON NATURE OF LINKS BETWEEN IT AND JORDAN. HUSSEIN HAS SAID PALESTINIANS SHOULD DECIDE NATURE OF LINKS IN PLEBISCITE.

CSM -- DAN SOUTHERLAND FROM TAIF

LEAD: "NOW PAST THE MIDWAY MARK ON HIS MIDEAST PEACE MISSION, SECSTATE VANCE SEEMS TO HAVE RECEIVED THE SAME BASIC MESSAGE FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES. THE MESSAGE... AMOUNTS TO A WARNING: WE ARE WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE ON ALMOST EVERY ISSUE. BUT THE ISRAELIS MUST SHOW A WILLING-
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NESS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES ON THE WEST BANK...OR FACE AN ARAB UNWILLINGNESS TO MOVE FURTHER TOWARD A SETTLEMENT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ARABS APPEAR TO TRUST CARTER ADMINISTRATION MORE THAN PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION, PARTLY BECAUSE OF CARTER'S ADVOCACY OF PALESTINIAN HOMELAND AND OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. BUT DISTRUST OF ISRAELIS REMAINS DEEP.

-- ARABS CLEARLY PLEASED THAT US DEALING WITH SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS EVEN PRIOR TO GENEVA. THERE HAD BEEN FEARS THAT BEGIN HAD DIVERTED CARTER FROM THIS COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH.
-

-- VANCE TRYING TO SETTLE MAIN ISSUES PRIOR TO GENEVA; HE SPENT MORE TIME WITH HUSSEIN TALKING SUBSTANCE THAN PROCEDURE.

LA TIMES -- OZZIE JOHNSTON FROM TAIF

LEAD: "DESPITE A DIPLOMATIC SLIP IN EGYPT AND A PUBLIC REBUFF IN SYRIA, SECSTATE VANCE'S MIDEAST DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE SUNDAY IN UNEXPECTEDLY GOOD REPAIR AFTER A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO ARAB PROTAGONISTS IN THE 30-YEAR-OLD CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL."

OTHER POINTS:

-- HUSSEIN GAVE US INITIATIVE UNUSUALLY WARM ENDORSEMENT. US MIDEAST SPECIALISTS WHO WERE PESSIMISTIC A WEEK AGO DECLARED THEMSELVES PLEASED AT PROGRESS MADE.
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-- NO ONE CLAIMS ARAB-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES NARROWED MUCH, BUT US OFFICIALS PLEASED VANCE HAD BEEN ABLE TO ENGAGE ARAB LEADERS IN CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS.

-- CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, TALKS HAVE INVOLVED ACTIVE AMERICAN EFFORT.

-- ISRAEL STOP LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT; BEGIN BELIEVES HE WON FROM CARTER PROMISE TO DEAL ONLY WITH PROCEDURE, AND HE MAY REFUSE TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS.

-- DESPITE CARTER'S ENDORSEMENT OF BEGIN PLAN FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE, VANCE HAS NUDGED US POLICY BACK TOWARD ARAB POSITION OF WORKING OUT PRINCIPLES OF SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO GENEVA.

-- VANCE HAS REORGANIZED THREE BASIC ISSUES INTO MORE DETAILED AND PRECISELY PHRASED FRAMEWORK OF FIVE POINTS: WITHDRAWAL, FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN ENTITY, NATURE OF PEACE, NEGOTIATION OF SECURE BOUNDARIES FOR ISRAEL AND PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT PEACE CONFERENCE.

-- VANCE PROCEDURE IS TO GO DOWN THE LIST POINT BY POINT AND URGE ARAB LEADERS TO COME UP WITH PRECISE FORMULATION OF THEIR OWN VIEWS. "THE IDEA, ONE OFFICIAL EXPLAINED, IS TO GET THE NEGOTIATORS AWAY FROM SLOGANS AND INVOLVE THEM IN DEFINING A REALISTIC COURSE OF ACTION."

WSJ -- BOB KEATLEY FROM TAIF

LEAD: "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS DRAFTING A MIDEAST PEACEMAKING PLAN THAT IS MUCH CLOSER TO THE PROPOSALS OF SOME ARAB STATES THAN TO THE DESIRES OF ISRAEL. THIS INCREASES THE PROBABILITY OF A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON ABOUT HOW TO ORGANIZE A GENEVA PEACE
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CONFERENCE AND WHAT IT SHOULD DO. THE CONFRONTATION COULD COME TOMORROW WHEN SECSTATE VANCE BEGINS A 2-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE MISSION TRYING TO DRAFT NEGOTIATING PRINCIPLES

TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR GENEVA TALKS. US HOPES TO FILL IN AS MUCH SUBSTANCE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE CONFERENCE. THIS PARALLELS ARAB APPROACH, AND IS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM BEGIN'S POLICY.

-- BECAUSE GAP BETWEEN US AND ISRAELI VIEWS SO LARGE, US WILL HAVE TO EXERT STRONG PRESSURE ON ISRAEL OR GIVE UP HOPES OF HOLDING PEACE TALKS SOON.

-- ARAB SOURCES SAID VANCE'S PROPOSALS PARALLEL CARTER STATEMENTS.

-- ARABS SAID TO AGREE NEW SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL NECESSARY TO PROMPT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. IDEAS INCLUDE DEMILITARIZED ZONES, PLACEMENT OF EARLY WARNING STATIONS -- AS IN SINAI -- AND MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES ON BOTH SIDES WHEN PEACE TREATIES SIGNED. BUT THERE IS NO ARAB UNITY ON THIS POINT, OR ON THE NATURE OF PEACE.

-- ARABS OFFERING ISRAEL WAY AROUND CHIEF PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF PLO BY SAYING ALL THAT ISRAEL MUST DO IS AGREE TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. PLO NEED NOT ATTEND.

-- CHIEF OBSTACLE NOW IS ISRAELI REFUSAL TO CONSIDER ADVANCE PLEDGES TO WITHDRAW, PERMIT CREATION OF PALES-
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TINIAN ENTITY, OR TO SET FORTH EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF PEACE GUARANTEES IT WANTS.

-- ARABS, INCLUDING EGYPT, NOW FEEL IT BETTER TO WAIT FOR WELL-PREPARED GENEVA MEETING THAN RISK FAILURE.

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